

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 292829
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

66011

DRAFTED BY:AF:AF/E:RPOST

APPROVED BY:AF:WHARROP

NEA:NVELIOTES

S/S-O:LRFLEISCHER

-----093523 080633Z /12

P 080604Z DEC 77 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO RUTABA/AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY 7603

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T STATE 292829

NODIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT CAIRO 20109 SENT ACTION SECSTATE DEC 03.

QUOTE S E C R E T CAIRO 20109

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS MILI EG SO ET IS

SUBJECT: SOMALI/ETHIOPIAN CONFLICT

REF: (A) STATE 285698, (B) STATE 286792 (REPEATING
TEL AVIV 10045), (C) CAIRO 19593, (D) CAIRO 19438

1. DURING MEETING WITH VP MUBARAK TODAY, I HAD OCCASION
SET RECORD STRAIGHT ON BEGIN'S ALLEGED COMMENT TO SADAT
THAT USG HAD FOREKNOWLEDGE OF AND APPROVED ISRAELI
SECRET

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MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN ETHIOPIA. RECALLED THAT SADAT
HAD TWICE MENTIONED THIS TO ME, IN VP MUBARAK'S
PRESENCE. THE COMMENT HAD PUZZLED ME, SINCE IT WAS
CONTRARY TO MY UNDERSTANDING OF THE SITUATION. I HAD
THEREFORE QUERIED WASHINGTON ABOUT IT.

2. REPLY I HAD RECEIVED SUGGESTED THAT THERE MIGHT HAVE

BEEN A MISUNDERSTANDING ON SADAT'S PART OF WHAT BEGIN SAID, SINCE WE HAVE CONSISTENTLY REFUSED ISRAELI REQUESTS TO RESUME DIRECT MILITARY SUPPORT FOR THE MENGISTU REGIME OR EVEN TO PERMIT TRANSFER OF U.S. ARMS FROM ISRAEL TO EPMG. IN TALKS WITH ISRAELIS, OUR FIRM POSITION HAS ALWAYS BEEN THAT ANY MILITARY AID TO ETHIOPIA AT THIS JUNCTURE, EITHER FROM U.S. OR ISRAEL, WOULD MAINLY BENEFIT SOVIET INTERESTS IN HORN OF AFRICA. WHILE WE ARE KEEPING OPEN EXISTING DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS TO MENGISTU, AND ARE PROVIDING LIMITED MODEST ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, WE ARE NOT ENGAGED IN ANY MILITARY SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP, INCLUDING APPROVING THIRD COUNTRY TRANSFERS, TO ETHIOPIA. THIS HAS CONSISTENTLY BEEN MADE CLEAR TO THE ISRAELIS, AND WE HAVE ALSO INDICATED TO THEM THAT WE PREFER THAT THEY NOT SUPPLY ARMS TO MENGISTU. THE ISRAELIS HAVE NOT KEPT US FULLY INFORMED OF THE EXTENT OF THEIR ACTIVITIES IN ETHIOPIA. I WISHED CATEGORICALLY AND UNEQUIVOCALLY TO ASSURE PRESIDENT SADAT AND HIM THAT WE HAVE NOT APPROVED THEIR MILITARY ACTIVITIES THERE. VP MUBARAK LISTENED INTENTLY AND EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE INFORMATION. HE UNDERTOOK GET IT TO SADAT RIGHT AWAY. TOLD HIM I WILL ALSO WANT TO DISCUSS SUBJECT DIRECTLY WITH SADAT NEXT TIME I SEE THE PRESIDENT.

3. NOTING THAT SOMALI VP SIAD BARRE HAD TWICE BEEN HERE IN PAST WEEK, THE SECOND TIME IMMEDIATELY AFTER HIS VISIT
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TO SAUDI ARABIA, I SAID I ASSUMED HE HAD COME IN CONNECTION WITH HIS REQUEST FOR DEPLOYMENT OF EGYPTIAN MILITARY FORCES TO BERBERA. HAD SADAT MADE A DECISION ON THIS MATTER? MUBARAK ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THIS HAD BEEN SIAD BARRE'S MAIN PURPOSE. DURING NUMAYRI'S BRIEF VISIT OF LAST WEEK, SADAT AND NUMAYRI HAD AGREED THAT SOME SUDANESE TROOPS WILL BE SENT TO BERBERA AND NORTHERN SOMALIA AS A DETERRENT FORCE. SAUDIS, ACCORDING TO MUBARAK, HAD AGREED TO FINANCE THIS OPERATION. SADAT HAD DECLINED TO SEND EGYPTIAN TROOPS AT THIS TIME, SAYING HE WAS NOT IN A POSITION TO DO SO. (MUBARAK OBSERVED THAT SADAT'S DECISION MADE IN THE LIGHT OF OUR REFUSAL TO PROVIDE ARMS FOR SUCH A DEPLOYMENT.) IF, HOWEVER, ETHIOPIANS SHOULD ATTACK INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED SOMALI TERRITORY (NOT OGADEN), THE DECISION WILL BE REVIEWED AND GOE WILL IN ALL PROBABILITY SEND FORCES TO HELP PROTECT SOMALI TERRITORY.

4. RECOMMEND DEPT REPEAT THIS MESSAGE TO ADDIS ABABA, MOGADISCIO, KHARTOUM AND TEL AVIV. EILTS UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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